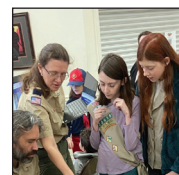


ERHS Robotics  
Win, p.16



Pinewood Derby,  
p.16

Women in Greenbelt

## Long an Activist, Jenni Pompei Strives to be Effective in New Role

by Dana Tompkins

Nobody can accuse Councilmember Jenni Pompei of sitting back. The list of organizations and interests she's involved in and titles she holds seems endless. There's the Eleanor Roosevelt High School PTSA, Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club, the Greenbelt Library and Greenbelt Pride, just to name a few. Even she laughs when asked what her Google calendar looks like.

And, of course, since last November, Pompei added Councilmember to that list of titles. In the most recent election, Pompei received the fourth most votes, surpassed only by three incumbents – Emmett Jordan, Kristin Weaver and the late Council-



Former mayor and outgoing councilmember J Davis embraces newly elected Jenni Pompei as the city council election results are announced, November 7, 2023.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

member Ric Gordon, who died a few weeks following his re-election. Growing up in western Massachusetts and, especially southern Maryland, Pompei reports that her family was more socially liberal than many of their neighbors. She learned the importance of standing firmly in her beliefs while also seeking common

ground with others. This is an approach that has served her well in Greenbelt, where she's lived with her family since 2018, as well as in her other professional endeavors.

Currently a magazine editor at a nonprofit organization, Pompei has also served as a fundraiser and activist for other

See POMPI, page 8

## PGCPS Presents New Plan to Move Dora Kennedy Back to Goddard

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, March 11, Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) leaders met in person with the Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) community for the first time for a town hall meeting about plans to move the school from its current location off Edmonston Road and Greenbelt Road, in what was Greenbelt's original high school building. The community learned they were being moved from their building when the News Review reported it on February 1. Since then, PGCPS held a virtual meeting in which participants were not able to speak, telling the DKFI community that the only option available for their school was a move to the former Kenmoor Middle School in Landover (vacated last year when that school got a new building). On Monday they announced their new plan to move DKFI back to its former location, sharing the Robert Goddard school building in Lanham with the Montessori school. The administration presented the move as solving problems for DKFI and the system but parents objected to a second plan created without their input.

### Apologies

PGCPS Chief Operating Of-



Dora Kennedy French Immersion School Principal James Spence, left, and Robert Goddard Montessori School Principal Deatrice Womack speak at Monday's town hall held to discuss the future move of the school.

ficer Charoscar Coleman presided over the town hall, and said the administrative team had come to "do the work to repair and restore the relationship between the administration and the Dora Kennedy community" and to "collaboratively move forward." Coleman opened by apologizing for the "distraction" caused by the "hot mic moment" (see the February 15 issue).

PGCPS Director of the Blue-



PHOTOS BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

print Schools Program Shawn Matlock also apologized for his comments made during the "hot mic." Matlock had said of DKFI and Robert Goddard Montessori (RGMS) schools that "they hate each other!" On Monday, he explained he is prone to hyperbole and knows the families and administrations of the schools do not have "any animosity toward

See DKFI, page 6

## Feel Free to Clown Around; May's Circus Camp is Back

by Rasheeda Childress

For the first time since the pandemic, Circus Camp is returning in person to Greenbelt, and will be helmed by Greg May. The debut return of Circus Camp takes place over spring break this month, followed by two sessions during the summer. At press time a few spaces remained for the spring break and session three camps but are likely to fill up quickly.

"I'm very excited about coming back," May said of returning to Greenbelt's camp lineup.

May debuted Circus Camp in Greenbelt in 2008, says Chris Cherry, performing arts coordinator for the city. During the years when May ran the camp at the Community Center, the camp was so popular that hopeful participants were often waitlisted.

With the return of Circus Camp, May is looking forward to teaching kids not just how to ride a unicycle, juggle or clown around, but also some of life's most important and universal lessons.

"The most important thing that we ever teach will be how to fall down – that's how to fail, literally and figuratively," May said.



PHOTO COURTESY GREG MAY

Greg May runs the Circus Camp that Greenbelt welcomes back this summer for the first time since 2019.

"Our goal overall is to create a loving, family atmosphere where kids can grow and learn: learn how to fall, but also learn how to get back up."

As kids get older, May noted, the lessons in perseverance they learn in Circus Camp help

them in other areas of their lives, too. "When the kids square off with a three-month project in their sophomore year of high school," May said, "and they think, 'How can I handle something that's going to take three months?' The circus kids are going to say, 'Well, it took me a year and a half to learn a unicycle, so I can get this.'"

Another lesson May focuses on in Circus Camp is leading with kindness.

"When we did our sessions before, we always sat the kids down and told them that there were 100 rules for circus camp," May says. "Rules one through 99 were to be kind, and rule 100 was no gum."

### Anatomy of a Comeback

May credits Cherry for making his return to Circus Camp

See CIRCUS, page 8

## Missing Woman Found Safe Following Long Disappearance

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Over a month after Laura Shallue went missing she has been found and safely reunited with family.

On Tuesday, March 12, Maryland State Police (MSP) told the News Review, "We can confirm that Shallue was located happy and healthy yesterday evening. No foul play is suspected. No additional information is available at this time."

Shallue, 54, of Stevensville on the Eastern Shore, was located March 11 after being reported missing on February 6. She had been reportedly last seen by an aunt in Greenbelt and said to be heading to Greenbelt Lake before going missing. Her car was found on Lastner Lane on February 8 with her cellphone inside.

As previously reported by the News Review, Buddy Attick Park was searched by MSP and supporting agencies on foot and with dogs on Wednesday, February 21 and the lake was searched using boats, dogs and sonar on Monday, February 26 (see the February 29 issue).

### A Strange Disappearance

The missing-person case was

transferred from Maryland's Centerville Barracks to MSP Criminal Enforcement Division (CED). While she was missing, CED declined to respond to questions from the News Review about Shallue's use of credit cards or access to money, the last time she used the phone that was found in her car or whether she was thought to have been at Greenbelt Lake during daylight hours or evening ones. They did tell the News Review that investigators did not believe foul play was suspected.

See FOUND, page 11

## What Goes On

Monday, March 18

7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Prince George's County Council, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.



# Letters to the Editor

## A Modest Proposal

It is a melancholy thought to those who live and work in this great town, when they see city hall, crowded with filing cabinets, followed by three, four or six meager offices, all in bleak concrete walls and space consultants recommending taxpayers pay for a new building.

It seems agreed by all parties of city council, consultants and staff that a large and long-term debt to construct a new building to house city services is the only way to improve the deplorable state of city hall. Could the city be required to report on lessons from the bond to fund and costs to construct the public works facility completed in 2009 for \$4.2 million (GNR, 31 Dec 2009)?

Based on letters to the newspaper, I will throw my hat in with the taxpayers who find it worthwhile to seek out a fair, cheap and immediate method to provide physical space to support city services.

Instead of indenturing future city residents with potential cost and time overruns of a com-

plex construction project, the city could pivot. It could rent space in existing Greenbelt office buildings, rapidly resolving the space needs of city staff and services while supporting area businesses. The new first floor tenants of 6301 Ivy Lane have created a stylish and welcoming suite in a few short weeks. It seems hard to imagine how construction of an entirely new building would be less costly than even a 10-year commercial lease.

Johanna Goderre

## My Experience In Charlestowne North

It was with great pleasure that I read in the February 7 issue of the Greenbelt News Review that Freddie Mac had filed for foreclosure and receivership against Charlestowne North Holding LLC and learned from my former neighbors at Charlestowne North Apartments that the receiver had already started taking steps to remediate the damage caused by the neglect of the previous

See **LETTERS**, page 12



Chalk art by Vijay Parameshwaran celebrates International Women's Day

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**OC = Open Captions**  
**CC = Closed Captions**  
**DVS = Descriptive Video Service**

**SHOWTIMES:**  
**MARCH 15th - 21st**

**Dune: Part Two** (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2024) (141 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 7:30 PM  
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC)  
Mon. 5:45 PM  
Tues. 7:15 PM  
Wed. 7:30 PM  
Thurs. 4:30 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 4:00 PM  
Sat. 4:00 PM  
Sun. 5:00 PM  
Mon. 5:30 PM

**Oppenheimer** (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2024) (107 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 3:45 PM  
Sat. 7:15 PM  
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC)  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Sun. 1:15 PM  
Tues. 7:00 PM  
Thurs. 6:30 PM

**Poor Things** (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2024) (145 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Sun. 5:30 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 7:45 PM  
Sat. 7:30 PM  
Mon. 2:15 PM  
Wed. 7:45 PM

**Howl's Moving Castle** (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2004) (129 mins)  
Cinema Pop!  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 1:00 PM - dubbed

**Storytime on Screen** - Free!  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Mon. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

**Midnight Cowboy** (R) (CC) (DVS) (1969) (113 mins)  
Cult Classic  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

**Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!**

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

**Letters Policy**

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



Community Events

Drivers Needed for GIVES

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that helps adult Greenbelt residents with transportation and friendly visits, along with other services. More drivers are urgently needed to meet the increase in requests for services. To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, a member of GIVES, have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and submit for a free background check. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit [givesgreenbelt.org](http://givesgreenbelt.org).

GCC Heifer Fair

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, will host the 2nd Annual Heifer Fair on Sunday, March 24 from 3 to 5 p.m. The fair will include more information about Heifer International, hands-on crafts for children (with a fee), a bake sale and possibly a visit from a sheep. GCC is located at 1 Hillside Road.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions. Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

GIVES Quarterly Meeting

Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16 at the Community Center Room 201 at 10 a.m. For further details email [givesoffice@gmail.com](mailto:givesoffice@gmail.com) or call 301-507-6580.

Lenten Day Recollection

On Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Father Ted Keating and the Catholic Community of Greenbelt will hold a Lenten Day of Recollection. The topic will be Breaking Open the Pascal Mystery, What It Really Means in Our Lives. The meeting will be in the City Council Room on the second floor of the Municipal Building. All are welcome to attend.

Free coffee and tea will be available. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch. Participation via Zoom is available for people who cannot attend in person. For more information or to get the Zoom link, send an email to [CCG1985+owner@groups.io](mailto:CCG1985+owner@groups.io).

Greenbelt Orchestra Free Concert March 17

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will give a free concert on Sunday, March 17 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center gym. The orchestra will perform Schubert's Symphony #8, as well as works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns and Grainger.

To find out more about the orchestra, visit [greenbeltorchestra.org](http://greenbeltorchestra.org).



Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book discards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email [friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com). Cash and check donations are also accepted in the blue box next to the Library's front desk. Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.

Gaza Program Monday At Reel and Meal

Understanding Gaza is the theme on Monday, March 18 at the New Deal Café's Reel and Meal program. Four short films will be screened, followed by discussion to help us get both sides of this ongoing tragedy. An Israeli TV piece and an Israeli soldier's video diary present one view. A Democracy Now show with Al Jazeera footage and an interview with Professor of Arab Studies Rashid Khalidi present another. A Le Monde production examines many aspects of a 4,000-year-old city, home to 2 million people, and its surroundings. This production includes the creation of Israel, Hamas and the ongoing conflicts around what's been called "the world's largest open-air prison." It also looks at the two-state solution first proposed in 1947 and again last week in President Biden's State of the Union address. Discussion will follow. The free program can be joined live or on Zoom. The link to register for the virtual program is [tinyurl.com/ReelnMealMar2024](https://tinyurl.com/ReelnMealMar2024). Call 301-467-2418 for more details.

Greenbelt Chess Club

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, March 19, from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. in the Greenbelt Youth Center. All ages and skill levels are welcome. For more information, call Effie at 443-415-1053.



Comm. Devel. Corp. To Meet March 19

Greenbelt Community Development Corporation's next members' meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 114.

Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Saturday, March 16 at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see the Moon and deep sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters currently high in the sky, viewed through the observatory telescope and astronomical camera. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own telescopes to set up on the hilltop.

Observing will begin at 8:30 p.m. and continue for two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.



Greenbriar Phase I Sets Special Meeting Tues.

Greenbriar Condominium Phase I plans to hold the reconvened special meeting regarding the proposed Declaration Amendment on parking on Tuesday, March 26 at 6 p.m. in the Terrace Room at 7600 Hanover Parkway. A quorum of 60 percent of owners is needed to hold the meeting.

Dem. Club Features Women in Politics

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club is hosting a panel discussion on women in politics, featuring elected women from the greater Greenbelt area. The event is Sunday, March 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Greenbriar Terrace Room, 7600 Hanover Parkway. Attendees are encouraged to come in green in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day.

Yarn Donations Needed

Gifts from the Heart is a group of knitters and crocheters meeting Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Center. Every year they donate hundreds of hats, scarves, shawls, blankets, walker bags and baby items to schools, churches, nursing homes, Project Linus and other organizations. Donations of acrylic yarn are welcome and may be dropped off when the group meets or at the Community Center office during business hours.

Golden Age Club

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Community Center. If public schools are closed (or open late) due to weather issues, the meeting is canceled for the day. The club is now collecting dues for 2024, which are \$15 for the year. For paid members, a part of the dues goes toward a discount for the annual luncheon on April 17. Paying dues by check is preferred; make the check payable to Greenbelt Golden Age Club. Remember to pay dues and sign up for the luncheon as soon as possible. Luncheon prices are \$15 for members and \$32 for guests.

The club will be having a Spring Ticket Raffle Auction on April 10. Donations of items to be auctioned will be accepted until April 3.

March activities:

March 20, Birthday celebrations; bring lunch and a dessert or finger food to share.  
March 27, Bingo

Luminis Health Offers Free Health Screenings

Luminis Health will be providing free blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol screenings on Wednesday, March 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Doctors Community Medical Center, on the first floor of the North Building.

More Community Events  
are located throughout the paper.

Greenbelt Access Television

Mar. 16, Sat - Mar. 22, Fri

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77

(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)

Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)

Little Nellie Kelly (1940)

A celebration of life and love! Join us for this musical-comedy classic, starring Judy Garland.

Spotlight Feature This Month

Women in World War II

Donna Peterson and Megan Searing-Young travel back in time to explore and expand on the many amazing achievements and contributions of women during World War II.

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](http://Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube) for new video productions.

This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

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WINTER HOURS: Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm; Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 3/14	FRI 3/15	SAT 3/16	SUN 3/17	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Pilgrims of Deep Run 7-9pm B'more Irish group	IlyAIMY 7-10pm From rock to folk to soul to bluegrass, an exquisite show	POETRY OPEN MIC, 1-3pm Billy Coulter Band 7-10pm Blurring the line between Roots Rock & Power Pop	ST. PATRICK'S DAY Corned Beef Hash 6-8pm No-holds-barred journey thru Irish jigs and reels	
MON 3/18	TUES 3/19	WED 3/20	TH 3/21	SPECIALS!
REEL AND MEAL 7-9pm "Gaza" (2019)	NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire 7-9:30 Sign-ups begin at 6:30pm	Pub Quiz 7-9pm Bring that big brain of yours and test your knowledge	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Drag Bingo w/ D'Manda Martini 7-9pm Unlimited bingo!	HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE

Join NDC! Go to [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

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THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES. Contact: [jbelltower@yahoo.com](mailto:jbelltower@yahoo.com). We promise: It won't hurt!



Obituaries

Robin Olson



Robin Olson, right, with her son, Evan

Robin Wendell Olson, 71, of Greenbelt, died on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

She was born in Baltimore, the daughter of the late Martin Wendell and Deborah Polk Wendell. Robin is survived by her son Evan M. Olson (Kellie Hale Olson), of Broomfield, Colo., and her brother, Barry Wendell (Rabbi Joseph Hample) of Morgantown, W.V.

Robin loved Greenbelt and was active in the Mishkan Torah Sisterhood and Greenbelt Golden Age Club. She was an avid mah-jongg and Scrabble player and a much-loved community activist.

Services were held at Mishkan Torah Congregation on Sunday, March 10, with burial at Judean Gardens cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mishkan Torah, Planned Parenthood or any animal shelter to honor Robin’s memory.

Helen White



Helen E. White

Helen Emily White (née Bryan) died at the age of 88 on March 5, 2024, in her Greenbelt home with family by her side. She was born on March 2, 1936, to Florence E. and John H. Bryan in Chicago. The Bryan family moved to Washington, D.C., in the 1940s where they lived on the 1800 block of Newton Street N.W. in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. Helen graduated from Sacred Heart Academy where she was active in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) women’s basketball league. She met her husband Thomas X. White at a local CYO dance in 1952. The two married in 1956, raised seven children and were together for nearly 60 years until his death in 2015.

In 1959 the family moved to Greenbelt, with Helen working

night shifts at the Government Printing Office to spend daytime hours with their toddler children as Tom completed his degree at the University of Maryland. Her boundless energy and initiative enabled her to balance motherhood, work and community activities. Before long she had put her expert stenography skills to use in a variety of roles supporting Greenbelt Homes, Inc. and Greenbelt Consumer Services. Helen and Tom quickly realized Greenbelt was the perfect place for them, and went on to build a wonderful life around their strong values of faith, family, community engagement and volunteerism. They were heavily involved in the local Catholic parish of St. Hugh’s where their children attended the parochial school. Helen loved coaching the girls’ basketball team at St. Hugh’s in the 1970s and served as a parent sponsor of a neighborhood 4-H group (with a reputation for her baking and sewing talents). Always an advocate for active learning, Helen offered her administrative and accounting skills to the local Eleanor Pernia Dance Studio in exchange for dance lessons for her children. She was a resourceful DIY personality who found time and energy to sew clothes for her children and take on projects ranging from home remodeling to garden landscaping to auto repairs. In 1985, Helen

See OBITUARIES, page 12

Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays, All Welcome

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation.

The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then some sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, contact Patience Robbins at [patience.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:patience.robbins@gmail.com).



Condolences to the family and many friends of Helen White who died on March 5. She had lived in Greenbelt since 1959 and with her husband Tom had helped to establish the Catholic Community of Greenbelt.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



“All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization.” – Bahá’u’lláh



**Greenbelt Bahá’í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

*An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.*

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)



*Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community*  
March 17, 2024 at 3:00 pm  
**Staying Strong**

*Rev. Ann Kadlecek  
with Worship Associates Jacqui Walpole, Anne Hoover and Leo Jones*

A church exists and thrives because of its people. In today’s service, we will honor some of the people who have kept this church strong in recent years, and consider together how this church stays strong today.

*Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:  
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD*

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS

Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Room  
25 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
[CCG1985+owneregroups.io](https://ccg1985+owneregroups.io)

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am  
Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)



The Bible Says...  
**Lent-Week #5**  
Your sins have made a separation  
between you and your God  
Isaiah 59:2a



**Sunday Worship Services**  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
(66 Ridge Rd.)  
**MCFcc.org**

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

Welcomes you each Sunday for  
Worship & Sunday School  
at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

*We are an  
Open and Affirming  
Church*



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

**Join Us Sunday  
10:15 AM  
for Worship  
and Church School**

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.  
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

\*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



College Park United Methodist Church  
Mowatt Memorial UMC

LENT SEASON

It is a time of self-examination and reflection on God's infinite love.

Lenten Bible study

7:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m  
Wednesdays  
thru March 20th

Prior to our bible study at 6 pm, we will host a light communal meal that consist of soup, bread, and a drink prepared by our Community Meals Chef, Chris Hough.

This six-week bible touches on the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on a new life and redemption rather than loss.

9601 Rhode Island Av, College Park MD

Saturday Egg-stravaganza

1 p.m - 2:30 pm  
Kids pre-K through 5th grade are invited for a fun-filled Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 30th.  
Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

Maundy Thursday, Mar 28th

7 p.m

We will worship the Lord through reflection, song, and communion.

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

Good Friday, Mar 29th

7 p.m

During this service, we will remember the passion and death of Jesus. The gradual extinguishing of the candles is accompanied by prayer, hymns, and reading from Scripture.

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

Easter Sunday

10 a.m

Invite a friend to join us on Easter Sunday service as we celebrate God's gift of new life!

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD





# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## MEETINGS FOR MARCH 18 - 22

Monday, March 18 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION – PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY COUNCIL**

Monday, March 18 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION WEBINAR - WORKING IN COMMUNITY WITH INDIGENOUS NATIONS: JUST THE BASICS**

Tuesday, March 19 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, *On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes, Discuss Proposed Buddy Attick Park Master Plan, Dicuss Greenbelt’s Arbor Day Event (April 13)*

Tuesday, March 19 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, *On the Agenda: Review Minutes, Summary of the RC Retreat, Reflections on Public Events, Preparing for Upcoming Council Work Session*

Wednesday, March 20 at 6 pm, **GREENBELT MID-SESSION LEGISLATIVE DINNER (ANNAPOLIS)**

Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes of February 21, Presentation: Vision Zero & Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Overview*

Wednesday, March 20 at 7 pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Council Liaison Update, Recreation Department Update, Administrative Report*

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).*

## PINK PANTRY EVENT APRIL 3, 10 AM - 12 PM

This quarterly program assists low-income Greenbelt residents to access free menstrual products. **Registration is mandatory and must be completed by March 27.**

To register for this event, please utilize the provided link below: <https://forms.gle/qXFVkvYVBFgsqSLf8>.

Contact Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).



## EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION Open Registration

Please remember that you must register each month.

Parents must present proof of Greenbelt residency displaying parent’s name and residential address, state-issued photo ID, each child’s birth certificate.

To register: <https://forms.gle/uYJLegTD7HGjAz76> or call (240) 424-0302.

## PARENT & BABY WELLNESS FAIR April 3, 10 am - 12 pm Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Must register by March 27.

Fair includes health screenings, diapers & other giveaways, nutritional education, period products, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) education, pediatric CPR training, and more.

Contact Brendy Garcia at [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or call (240) 424-0302.

Register at <https://forms.gle/jpdsDQFg46d9C3At9>.



## CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- March Emergency Diaper Program
- Parent & Baby Wellness Fair  
April 3, 10 am - 12 pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center (see ad above)
- Pink Pantry Event  
April 3, 10 am - 12 pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center (see ad above)
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road  
Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 1 - 3 pm
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)  
Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm
- Senior Driver Safety & Mobility Seminar  
March 7, from 7 - 8 pm, Virtual

For descriptions and information, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS).

**GREENBELT RECREATION’S SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE**

[www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide)

**Registration currently open. Sign-up today before classes fill.**



## NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY 2024 MAY 17, 6:30 - 8:30 AM

*Parking Lot of Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, 101 Centerway*

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invites you to join over 16,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a fun, eco-friendly, low-cost commuting option and it provides both physical and mental health benefits. The Greenbelt Pit Stop will be one of 100 Pit stops in the regional area.

Register at [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org);  
Pit Stop Manager: Di Quynn Reno, [dquynnreno@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:dquynnreno@greenbeltmd.gov) (240) 542-2053.



## WEED WARRIORS: INVASIVE PLANT PULL

**MARCH 23, 10 AM - 1 PM**  
*Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road*

Be a part of the community effort to remove invasive plant species from the environment at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive vines from native trees and to pull other invasive plant species.

Register by email at [kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov).

## GREENBELT SAVE OUR SENIORS GRANT PROGRAM Are you homebound and need help with personal care?

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, in partnership with Pickett Fences Senior Services, has been awarded a grant to provide temporary home health support, bathroom safety assessment, and equipment to residents 60+ or 50+ with a disability, who reside within incorporated Greenbelt. During this time staff will work to identify and link residents with long-term support programs.

Benefits:

- RN Assessment
- Bathroom Safety Assessment and Equipment
- Home Health Visits

**Limited spots are available!**

Please email Trinity Cephas, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at [tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov) or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

## FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

**UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS**  
**MARCH 21, APRIL 18, & MAY 16**  
**TWO LOCATIONS**

**Community Center Ground Floor East:** 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

**Springhill Lake Recreation Center:** 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

**Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers** - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019.  
To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCntWf9>.

**Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers** - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.

## FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS at Doctors Community Medical Center, 8100 Good Luck Road Wednesday, March 20, 10 am - 2 pm

Luminis Health will be providing free blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol screenings on select Wednesdays in March. Screenings will take place on the 1st floor of the North Building at Doctors Community Medical Center.

Dates:

Wednesday, March 20, 10 am - 2 pm



## GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS Applications Deadlines Extended Through August 30, 2024

To better assist Greenbelt individuals, families, and businesses affected by COVID-19, Greenbelt’s ARPA programs have extended deadlines through the end of the year for grants and other assistance.

Grants include:

- Childcare Vouchers, Healthcare Vouchers, Higher Education Scholarships
- First-Time Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance, Workforce Development
- Micro Grants, Tree Canopy Grants

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [www.engagegreenbelt.org](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org).

## GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



## COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

## QUARTERLY CITY CONNECTER

The City Connector has been a publication of the City of Greenbelt since 2008. City Departments are solicited for each issue in order to provide a well-rounded newsletter. Each newsletter includes information about City services, events, and other governmental services.

Check out the latest edition of the Greenbelt City Connector today! #StayConnected

Visit <https://ow.ly/h76W50QvXhW>.

## WELCOME KITS

The City of Greenbelt’s Public Information Office is now accepting items (e.g., flyers, pens, calendars, maps, postcards, brochures, tchotchkes, etc.) to be added to the 2024 Welcome Kit for new Greenbelt residents. If you want to include any information about your business, club, or organization, please send 200 promotional items to the address below by Friday, April 19.

Contact [candrews@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:candrews@greenbeltmd.gov).

## BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt’s Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag).





School News

Part One

Blueprint or Budget-breaker?

Maryland’s Education Reform

by Kiersten Hacker, Christina Walker and Ela Jali

*Behind the Blueprint is the Local News Network’s comprehensive report on the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, the 10-year, multibillion-dollar plan to remake public education in the state. This article, the first of a two-part series, looks at how the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future came to be and its impact on the state’s budget.*

**Blueprint. State Deficit**

The Blueprint for Maryland is estimated to cost millions from the state’s coffers in coming years. At the same time, the State Department of Legislative Services anticipates growing deficits in the structural budget. *[Note: A structural budget is one adjusted for one-offs in revenue or expenditure to provide a medium-term outlook.]*

Maryland’s Democratic-led legislature passed the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future in 2021, vowing to pour billions of dollars into the state’s public schools to offer universal pre-K, improve teaching and make sure students are ready for college or careers.

But the General Assembly didn’t outline a long-term plan to fund the ambitious 10-year education reform effort, which increasingly looks like a blueprint for red ink.

Diving deep into the reform plan in reporting Behind the Blueprint – a multipart look at the state effort – the Local News Network at the University of Maryland found that the Blueprint is already devouring hundreds of millions annually from the state’s fund balance, which is on target to be fully drained in 2027. *[Note: The fund balance is the balance available for appropriation and expenditure after revenues and expenditures have been accounted for.]*

According to a state Department of Legislative Services fiscal briefing released in January, the state will start running a structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2025 that will multiply nearly sixfold by Fiscal Year 2029, when it will hit \$2.93 billion. *[Note: A structural deficit is one*

*in which public spending exceeds revenues even in good circumstances such as a strong economy. It reflects a chronic problem that will need changes in revenue, such as taxation, or in spending to address.]* Not coincidentally, that fiscal briefing estimates implementing the Blueprint will cost more than \$4 billion in 2029.

The General Assembly’s plan for dealing with the cost crunch? There isn’t one, at least not yet. Neither Governor Wes Moore in his State of the State address nor any of the Democratic state legislators interviewed for this story have offered any potential solutions for the coming Blueprint cash crunch.

“Several years from now we’re going to have to have a much more direct conversation about the long-term costs,” said state Senate President Bill Ferguson, a Democrat from Baltimore City. “But we’re not there yet.”

Republicans, meanwhile, see the Blueprint as a budget-breaker. “We cannot pay these billions and billions of dollars in extra monies; not just state but local as well,” said House Minority Leader Jason Buckel (R-Allegany). “We can’t pay for them unless you’re going to talk about new taxes – and significant taxes.”

**The Blueprint’s Background**

Ironically, the Blueprint was born out of a commission supported by a Republican governor who later backed away from the plan because of cost concerns.

In 2016, then-Governor Larry Hogan and the General Assembly created the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education to assess the public education system in Maryland and determine whether current funding schemes were conducive to student success.

Headed by William Kirwan, the former chancellor of the University System of Maryland, the commission came to the conclusion that an overhaul was needed.

“One of the ‘aha’ moments of

See **BLUEPRINT**, page 15

DKFI continued from page 1

each other.” He also apologized for saying that DKFI was not a school and explained that he was thinking in terms of brick-and-mortar schools and financing. “You are a school,” he told the families, teachers and administrators gathered on Monday.

**History**

Coleman said that 10 years ago DKFI’s current building was slated for demolition, but PGCPs spent \$5.7 million to make it habitable for the school. Prior to that, DKFI and RGMS were co-located at the Robert Goddard school off Good Luck Road in Lanham. PGCPs’ plan was to send DKFI to the Greenbelt Middle School (vacated by Greenbelt Middle School) and send RGMS to Meadowbrook Elementary School in Bowie. It would move the schools to right-sized locations and open the Robert Goddard building as a middle-school-sized swing space for the county, he explained. (A swing space is a location to temporarily house displaced schools.) RGMS fought the plan and ultimately PGCPs reversed the decision to move them. “That hampered us as a school district,” said Coleman, who explained that PGCPs was left without a viable middle school swing space. It became a clear problem when Hyattsville Middle School had to spread over three locations in Berwyn Heights, Bowie and Lanham during the pandemic, he said. “That was not a good outcome for the families, the staff nor us in operations,” and it was “one of the first bad decisions I was referencing,” said Coleman, referring to the comment he made on February 12 about “doubling down on a bad decision.” The other bad decision would be moving DKFI to the only middle-school-sized swing space that remains in the entire school district: Kenmoor, which was vacated last year.

**Need to Move DKFI**

“We are going to have to move Dora Kennedy,” stated Coleman, definitively. Their building is over 10 years past its useful life, he said, stressing also that the administration had been working hard to find options for DKFI beyond the single option presented to the community previously, which was a move to Kenmoor.

**Historic Site?**

A feasibility study conducted 15 years ago determined DKFI’s current building should be torn down, shared Matlock. (Note: this study was conducted before DKFI was moved into the building.) He also shared that all capital funding for the next six years is already earmarked. “The final use of this facility will be two years of swing space for Springhill Lake Elementary School, after which non-historic portions will be decommissioned and/or the building transferred to the City of Greenbelt,” he shared in a slide presentation. Matlock said if the building wasn’t surplus back to Greenbelt, then PGCPs would demolish it and place it back in the portfolio as a site for a new school in the future, probably not for some 30 or more years. *[Note: at its meeting on February 26 the Greenbelt City Council requested a historic site evaluation*

REVISED - PGCPs SWING SPACE PLAN - (draft)		
(CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)		
Moving School	Swing School	Duration
Templeton Elementary School	Kenmoor Middle School (original)	Summer 2023 - Summer 2026
Woodmore Elementary School	Meadowbrook Elementary School	Summer 2023 - Summer 2027
Robert Frost Elementary School	Matthew Henson Elementary School	Summer 2024 - Summer 2027
Hyattsville Elementary School	St. Mark's School	Summer 2025 - Summer 2027
Dora Kennedy French Immersion	Robert Goddard School	Summer 2026 - Permanent
Springhill Lake Elementary School	Greenbelt Middle School (original)	Summer 2026 - Summer 2028

A slide presented by PGCPs on Monday shows the planned moves for various schools, including DKFI permanently relocating to the Robert Goddard school in Lanham.

*of the school building.]*

**Plan to Reunite**

Robert Goddard is now a bigger school space, said Matlock, referring to 10 modular classrooms that have been added to the grounds. Matlock then presented a plan that would move DKFI permanently to Robert Goddard in 2026. Hyattsville Elementary School, previously scheduled to move to Robert Goddard as a swing space in 2026, will instead go to the St. Mark’s School from 2025 to 2027, which will be rented from the Archdiocese for the two years before Hyattsville Elementary receives its new school. Matlock spoke of upgraded windows, doors, Wi-Fi, a “full facelift,” a new sprinkler system and added classrooms, an elevator and plans to expand the Robert Goddard building further to fit DKFI in 2026.

DKFI’s Principal James Spence thanked the community. He spoke of visions and partnerships with NASA and the University of Maryland and appreciation for the Greenbelt community and what it has done for the school. Spence joked about the competitiveness between DKFI and RGMS and he thanked Principal Deatrice Womack for opening the doors of Robert Goddard and allowing him to see what the potential could be.

Womack explained that the building is split between two schools and common spaces such as the cafeteria are shared. She said a key component to sharing space is the scheduling of events and space usage, as well as arrival and dismissal procedures. “Two programs, one building – it can work. It can work,” said Womack, referring to all the schools RGMS has shared the building with, since half of it has been used as a swing space. “We’ve done it .... We did it and we did it with grace and with collaboration with each other,” she said. “Pretty much I’m here to say that we welcome you.”

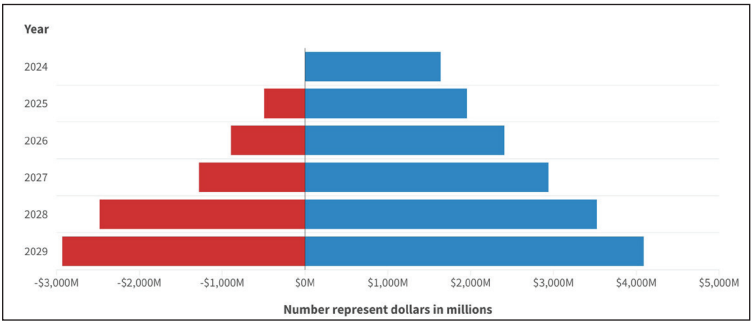
**Community Responds**

Following the administrators’ comments and presentation, parents and community members were invited to speak. Many expressed deep dissatisfaction that a new plan had been made for DKFI again without input from the community, and before their opportunity to talk to administrators. Though one parent said she “couldn’t get out of the building fast enough,” many others asked why a plan for DKFI wasn’t part of the budget 10 years ago; whether their children would be housed in temporary buildings; if DKFI, which has been growing, could continue to do so;

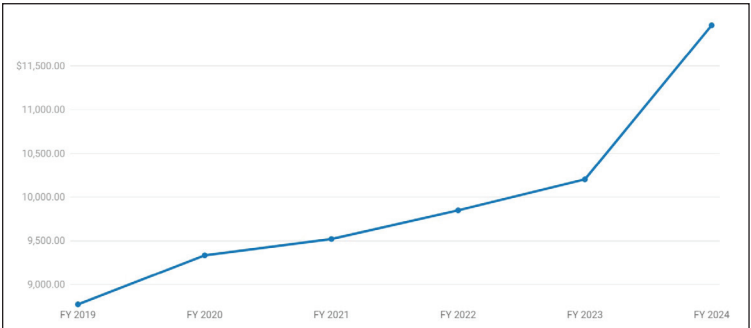
and whether they could maintain their identity in a shared space. Lee Wright, a former parent and current administrator at DKFI, who has been part of the school since it was at Rogers Heights, recalled that the second year co-located at Robert Goddard, DKFI returned from summer break to find their principal had been removed and the Montessori principal was to serve both, as one school. She said they were not allowed to make announcements over the PA in French and the program was “watered down.” Wright said she’d seen the huge difference in the program when they had their own space and a “sole French program.” “I don’t personally relish the thought of going back over to Robert Goddard because we kind of have a history of being treated like the bald stepchild,” said Wright. “I’m an advocate for us to be in our own space,” she told the administrators. “I understand that you can’t pull space out of thin air and everything costs a lot of money. I just hope that every avenue is truly explored, other buildings, other spaces.”

An article in next week’s paper will provide more on the community members’ testimony and responses to the move.

*The author is the parent of two children who currently attend Dora Kennedy French Immersion.*



The structural deficit is represented in red and Blueprint costs in blue. Source data from Maryland Department of Legislative Services



The state's per pupil funding for PGCPs increased 36.4 percent between fiscal years 2019 and 2024.

### Enrollment

PGCPs’ official enrollment data, accessed by the News Review, shows for the current school year a total enrollment of 492 students at RGMS (463 total adjusted for half-day 3-year-olds) and a 46 percent utilization of their building space, which has a space-rated capacity of 998, leaving 535 seats available. Meanwhile, the same enrollment data, taken on September 30, 2023, shows DKFI this school year has a total enrollment of 680 students. There is no building utilization data available for their school.

## The Bus

Seniors, Children with School ID and Customers with Disabilities **RIDE FREE**



# City Manager Provides Financial Update at Council Worksession

by Madeleine Jepsen

On January 29, City Manager Josué Salmerón provided a quarterly financial update at the city council worksession. The city's financial condition is stable, with city revenue coming in faster than expenditures are being paid out, wrote city Treasurer Bertha Gaymon in a memo to council.

Salmerón, who joined the staff in September, provided his second quarterly update to the council. The city's general fund revenue will likely exceed the adopted budget of \$36,082,900 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, which ends June 30, and expenditures will also be lower than the budget, continuing the trend the city saw in the previous two fiscal years.

At the time of the meeting, the city had collected 76.6 percent of budgeted revenues, or \$27,624,005, which exceeds the expected revenues. The city, on track with expected costs, has spent about 59.3 percent of its budgeted expenses, or \$21,386,961 of the \$36,046,700 budgeted.

"There's been a lot of things we're doing, a lot of attention on Greenbelt and the success and the things that we've accomplished," Salmerón said, adding that last quarter, the city received the 2023 Excellence in Economic Development Silver Award from the International Economic Development Council for the city's community development work through grant funding.

Salmerón commended the Public Works Department, responsible for a variety of tasks ranging from sidewalk repair to street cleaning and waste collection. Since a large portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding has gone toward public works-related capital projects, Acting Director of Public Works Brian Kim explained the department's tiered approach to project management.

The Human Resources Department is reviewing personnel policies and has digitized all current employee files and fully implemented the compensation study, an effort to ensure Greenbelt employees are paid competitive wages compared to other municipalities and the city can retain talented employees, said Salmerón. "That's actually going to have a pretty big impact on our budget in the coming year," said Mayor Emmett Jordan.

"The takeaway here is that we brought in more revenue than projected at this point in time and we expect our revenues to come in higher than budgeted," Salmerón said. "Likewise, for expenses, our spending is currently on track, but we expected to spend less than what we budgeted. Now, though, I'll put an asterisk as to that, that conditions



City Manager Josué Salmerón provides a quarterly financial update at the city council worksession.

may change in the next five, six months, and we have to be prepared to make adjustments as needed. But we are prepared."

The city's budget for FY 2025 will be based on Greenbelt's budget and progress for FY 2024. Real estate taxes are the largest revenue source for the city, which has collected all but \$50,000 of the 2024 budgeted amount. For personal property taxes, the city has collected about the same amount this year as in FY 2023. Gaymon pointed out that state highway revenue may be reduced in FY 2024 and FY 2025, although the full revenue may still be collected. The Recreation Department has nearly returned to its pre-Covid revenue levels after several years of lower revenue generated during the pandemic.

Since revenue numbers can fluctuate from year to year, Gaymon presented a five-year historical average for the city to use as an index. Jordan voiced concerns about open retail space in Greenway Center and Beltway Plaza, and the potential for lower commercial property taxes if fewer businesses renew their leases post-pandemic.

### Deficit Next Year

Resident Leon Schachter told council he clearly remembered the city manager previously stating there was a \$2.5 million deficit and he had heard the mayor advise that the state plans to cut their funding to municipalities by eight percent. "What happened to the two-and-a-half million dollars that was supposed to be a deficit? It looks like you're running a surplus. So, what happened?" he asked. Jordan clarified that there is a deficit of \$2.6 million projected for the coming budget but not the current fiscal year.

Salmerón called it "an early estimate of where our revenues and expenses will be for 2025." He is working with the finance department to deliver a balanced budget to council on March 25, he said. "That's part of the next year's budget so we're not facing that deficit this year," said Salmerón, who emphasized he'd rather be conservative on revenues and come in higher than budgeted and lower than estimated on expenses.

### Public Information

The city's Public Information Office includes streaming services with Facebook and YouTube to expand its reach to Greenbelt constituents and distributes emails to a listserv with more than 16,000 email addresses, as well as a quarterly postal mailer sent to about 13,000 addresses. Discussion included making the city's website more user-friendly and incorporating translation in the budget for FY 2025.

### Economic Development

In terms of the Economic Development Department, ARPA funds have been used to support small businesses, including 13 grants totaling \$345,000 for business improvement and recovery, as well as seven grants totaling \$280,000 for the business capital infrastructure program. Salmerón said more grant payments are designated to go out to Greenbelt businesses. The department is also creating a Greenbelt business directory and will deploy \$250,000 in ARPA funds for business support and develop a \$100,000 ARPA-funded business resiliency campaign, which will include increasing the foot traffic to the small businesses in Roosevelt Center. The department plans to continue an ARPA-funded "earn as you learn" program that provides hands-on job training for 16- to 18-year-olds in the next fiscal year.

As for planning, council also discussed the Royal Farms project, which council opposed but was approved by Prince George's County, and the Toaping Castle

See **COUNCIL**, page 15

# Prince George's Philharmonic Performs Again in Greenbelt

by Susan Pearl

The Prince George's Philharmonic will return to Greenbelt, performing the fifth concert of its 58th season at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School auditorium on Saturday, March 23, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Philharmonic has not performed in Greenbelt for eight years, having last performed here in February 2016. The March 23 program will highlight American composers and will include major works by Aaron Copland, Charles Ives and Howard Hanson.

Copland's original Appalachian Spring ballet, composed in 1943-44 for Martha Graham and her dance company, premiered in October 1944 in the Library of Congress auditorium. (The orchestra that accompanied the dancers consisted of only 13 instruments, the largest number that could comfortably fit into the pit.) In 1945, Copland then took part of the original ballet music and scored it for full orchestra, which has become immensely popular. It is this full orchestra version that will be performed on March 23.

Ives originally wrote symphony 3, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1908-10, as three pieces for organ: a prelude, a postlude


and a piece for communion – all based on Ives' memories of his rural youth and the outdoor camp meetings where all the farm families would come from miles around, and Ives' father, a Civil War bandmaster, led the singing. Ives structured his third symphony around these three organ pieces, each of the three movements depicting one of the hymns from a camp meeting: Old Folks Gatherin', Children's Day and Communion.

Hanson's Symphony 2 was premiered in 1930 by the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO), commissioned by Serge Koussevitsky for the 50th anniversary of the BSO. The symphony is in three movements rather than the expected four movements (a form established by Haydn and continued well into the 20th century). The best known and most loved of Hanson's works, this symphony's often gorgeous romantic lyricism makes it beloved by audiences who might otherwise lean away from 20th-century music.

Tickets for the concert will be sold at the door – they're discounted for seniors and free for those age 18 and under. See the ad on page 13 for details. For any questions, call 301-446-3245.



The Prince George's Philharmonic orchestra



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Invites you to a Panel Discussion on

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Quilting workshop Sunday March 17 ( with fee)

at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

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Tool Library every Sat. 10am-12, Sun 11am-1pm

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CIRCUS continued from page 1

happen. May’s mother, Betty, died last June. She had been a theater teacher and playwright and had helped her son run Circus Camp in Greenbelt. When trying to wrap up his mother’s estate, May called Cherry and offered to donate the props and theater equipment at her home.

Cherry was glad to help, but also told May that Greenbelt would love for him to come back and do Circus Camp. For May, the suggestion led to a set of opposing emotions. First, having recently lost his mother, he yearned for something familial.

“Of all the places of work, of all the things I’ve done over the years, I’ve never felt more of a family atmosphere than at the Community Center, with the team there, and with the community there,” he said.

At the same time, the reality that May isn’t as young as he was when he first started doing the camp set in, too. “I said, ‘I don’t know,’ because it’s so unbelievably physically taxing – basically lifting kids for a living,” May said.

Cherry wasn’t pushy, but offered May some words of assurance. “He says ‘We’ll start out small,’ and ‘we’ll make sure to have some young, strong staffers there to help,’” May said of Cherry’s supportive offer.

May also learned from Cherry that, over the years, as children who’d done the camps had grown up and outgrown their unicycles or other circus equipment, they’d donated them to the Community Center. “It’s all just there and ready to rock and roll,” May said. With that in mind, May agreed to come back.

PORCH Food Pickup Schedule for March

Greenbelt PORCH collects donations of nonperishables and hygiene products and brings them to the St. Hugh’s Food Pantry. Donations must be placed by front doors in containers marked RUAK or PORCH visible from the street. The pantry cannot accept open containers or food that has expired. The March schedule is below:

Saturday, March 16 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

Sunday, March 17 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including Woodland Hills donors). If not part of a regular pickup route, email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on March 17 at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to any porch to pick up donations.

Sunday, March 24 – by 4 p.m. for 9 through 13 Courts Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, email Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.



Greg May runs the Circus Camp that Greenbelt is welcoming back this summer after a four-year hiatus.

What’s in Store?

This year’s Circus Camp will look a lot like those in previous years. Participants will learn juggling, unicycle and clowning skills. Equipment like rolla bolla, a board balanced on top of a tube; the rolling globe, a large ball students stand or walk on as it rolls beneath them; and stilts will be back.

However, the camp will not be doing aerial skills, as that requires the most physicality from instructors, who have to make sure students don’t fall and get hurt. Additionally, Circus Camp is being offered one week over spring break, and only for three of the nine weeks Greenbelt is offering camps this summer: a single full, two-week session in July and a one-week session in August.

“I want to keep everybody safe,” May said. “I want to be on the absolute top of my game mentally and physically. We’re going to start out with these smaller sessions to give me a chance to recover afterwards because nothing is more important to me than being able to put my all into it.”

Cherry is happy to have May back for these few sessions, noting his “Greenbelt homecoming is both joyful and poignant.”

May is equally happy, noting that performing and helping others with circus is “like the air in my lungs. I love it with a passion.” He adds that he’s also really looking forward to being with his Greenbelt family again.

“When Chris put the bug in my ear about it, the more I thought about it, the more it felt right,” May says. “It really comes down to, I could use some family time.”

POMPI continued from page 1

progressive causes. All of this, she says, gave her a real appreciation for local government and the work it does. It also jibes with the intentionality of how she and her family – husband Nelson and their two teenage sons, Oscar and Miles – live their lives. They understand it’s important to be involved and engaged, she says of her family. Pompi believes you have to be intentional about being involved in things, about making connections.

“If you want to be a part of a community, you have to be intentional and build that community. You can’t just drop in and have community exist around you ... I think this is the way to live your life.”

But as involved as Pompi was in the community, it was a hard decision to pursue a seat on council. Yes, she and her family are busy, but she had also suffered what she described as a devastating loss in 2022 when running for the Prince George’s County School Board. Yet it was the many people who approached her after that loss and encouraged her to run for council that made her seriously consider it.

Pompi admits to being terrified of running another campaign. However, there were so many who were supportive – people like Jordan and Gordon – that she felt like there could be a place for her on council and that there was more work she could do. Though she lost the school board race, that first campaign likely gave her a small advantage over the other nonincumbents.

“Greenbelters already knew that I was here and present in the community, that I knew the issues, that I cared,” she said.

Still, Pompi admits to being in complete disbelief that she had done so well in the election. She expected to come in seventh or not win a seat at all, but, she said, “People had connected with me through the course of that [first School Board] campaign and recognized how important it is to serve and work hard.”

Pompi says that after being a careful observer for so many years, it feels wonderful to have a literal seat at the table now, be able to shape policy and have a direct effect on the community.

“I’m able to connect in a different way,” she says. “And people connect with me differently now, too. Greenbelters are very civic minded. Community members want there to be an awareness of the work they’re doing and the things they’re passionate about in the city.”

So, what does she care about and prioritize now that she’s a council member? Noncitizen



Jenni Pompi and her family enjoy time at the beach last summer.

resident voting and increasing environmental sustainability within our green spaces are two issues she’s passionate about. On the former, Pompi will consider her term a success if all Greenbelt residents are given the right to vote. On the latter, Pompi wants to continue addressing invasive species, maintaining biodiversity and protecting species critical to maintaining a sustainable ecosystem. Although there’s much work to do, specifically on communication and education around these issues, Pompi is heartened that many in Greenbelt are already working on these initiatives.

“Greenbelt is ripe to be a community in which we value sustainability ... and where we all work together towards it.”

And this includes all of Greenbelt, Pompi says. Equity is key and maintaining the status quo is not necessarily the answer, Pompi adds.

“For some, Greenbelt has a history that is painful and hurtful,” Pompi is mindful of this and advises that the Reparations Committee will play a big part in how we move forward as a community.

Pompi says that more is needed by both council and the city

to reach different areas of Greenbelt. Whether that is through meetings or worksessions in Greenbelt West or Greenbelt East, Pompi believes that you need to go where the people are to increase involvement. Pompi has no interest in dictating to others and, instead, she wants each distinct community to communicate its needs and for council to help meet them.

Pompi is also aware of the different dynamics of the current council and the difference that may make in how things are done. Unlike in recent years, all council members have full-time jobs, and women are the majority, two members with children at home. This changes the way people work, she says. There’s simply less time in the day.

“Every minute that I’m at my job or at council is a minute I’m not with my family. So, I have to be working really hard with that time. I want that time to be extremely effective for the city and get the most done we can ... People want to see action, they want to see things happen and they are hoping that this council is going to be a council of action, which I do, too.”



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# Join the MeatOut Challenge

by Barbara Glick and Geraldine Adams



Mayor Emmett Jordan, left, presents a proclamation setting MeatOut Day in Greenbelt to vegan advocates Barbara Glick, Dan Gillotte and Rosie Weaver.

On March 11, Mayor Emmett Jordan issued a proclamation, joining the Prince George’s County Council in declaring March 20, 2024, as MeatOut day. The county council cites “the variety of chronic health conditions related to diet” that county residents face as one of the reasons for embracing MeatOut day.

In order to spread the word about the benefits of a plant-based diet, early organizers selected March 20, 1985, as the first MeatOut day. Over the last 39 years, cities all around the U.S. and the world have been observing MeatOut day. According to the animal advocacy group FARM, MeatOut is now one of the largest international grassroots educational campaigns dedicated to removing animal products from our plates.

### Why Is It Important?

An ever-growing number of scientific studies have demonstrated the adverse health effects of the consumption of animal products. An exclusively whole-food plant-based diet is recommended by many healthcare practitioners. In 2015 the World Health Organization declared that processed meats are Group 1 carcinogens, meaning they cause cancer in humans.

The factory farm system, or concentrated animal feeding operations, that provide consumers with their meat, dairy and eggs are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and groundwater pollution. The growing demand for these products has been known to lead to deforestation, global warming and human

rights violations while disproportionately affecting low-income communities and communities of color.

**Participate in MeatOut**

The Greenbelt Co-op offers many plant-based options and will host cooking demonstrations by Food for Life instructor and Greenbelt resident Geraldine Adams on Monday, March 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

All Greenbelters are invited to take the challenge and make it fun. Participants are encouraged to recruit a friend, family member or co-worker and take the MeatOut +1 challenge or do it on their own.

Plan one plant-based breakfast, lunch and dinner to be ready for the challenge. For breakfast, try some quick oatmeal with nut milk, diced apples and cinnamon. For lunch, try tacos or a taco salad made with beans, plant-based meat and cheese. For dinner, prepare a small salad with penne pasta in marinara sauce with tofu or chickpeas. Tasty, nutritious and easy-to-make plant-based meals can be found at MeatOut.org or PCRM.org/recipes.

**Post Meat-free Meals**

Post your meals on your social media pages and tag them #MeatOut.

Another way to learn more is to watch a film about plant-based eating, such as Forks over Knives, What the Health or The Twins Study: You Are What You Eat.

See meatout.org for more information.

# 2024 Boxwood Village Scholarship Now Open

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual \$500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident. It is available to graduating high school seniors and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is partially funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, the annual Boxwood yard sale and other activities.

The application form should be completed and returned by June 30. A scholarship committee comprised of three Boxwood Village residents will choose this year’s recipient. For the application form and further information, email Pat McAndrew at pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net.

# Rec Spring Activity Guide Is Live Online

Greenbelt Recreation has posted its spring activity guide online at greenbeltnmd.gov/activityguide. The spring and summer camp guide can be found at greenbeltnmd.gov/camps. Registration is ongoing for all.

# The Tower Bus Film Focuses On History of Desegregation

by Melissa Sites

A large crowd came to Greenbelt Cinema on February 29 to watch The Tower Road Bus and to tell their own stories around desegregation. Directed by Michael Streissguth, the 2021 documentary focused on busing at an elementary school in Prince George’s County in the early 1970s. To lead the discussion, a three-member panel included Avis Matthews, a teacher and historian who has researched and written about African-American identity, along with Robert Spencer and Brenda Hawkins Baker, who were bused as children from their homes along Tower Road in Brandywine to Crestview Elementary School.

One audience member asked, “Do you think it’s important these stories are still told, or should we ‘move on’?” Spencer replied, “We all need to talk about history.” Matthews agreed: “I’m a history teacher, so yes. How can you raise your children and not tell them about their grandparents or their aunts and uncles? What can they connect to? We stand on our history.”

Matthews stressed that everybody’s story is not the same, and audience members related their different perspectives. One person stated, “Being bused from North-western to High Point was very traumatizing and destructive. I sent my children to private school so they could control their education.” Matthews said, “Busing was not destructive for me. There

are African American communities all over Prince George’s County. I wanted to find out how people were racially proud: how did we affirm our racial identity when we were desegregated? It was through community ties and family ties. Continuity was important. Racial identity was important, even though for the most part we integrated fairly well.” Matthews’ sister spoke about her own experience. “Being bused out of a school with Black teachers to a school with all white teachers was traumatizing,” she said. The sisters agreed that each of the four siblings in their family had different experiences, even over the span of just a few years. Spencer said that while all his friends went to one school, he was bused to a different school. “The experience has a lot to do with the numbers. When you were in that small minority it was very difficult.”

Dwayne Brown, local filmmaker, stated, “Glenarden was a well-built middle class Black town. Busing was a shock.” He experienced racism at schools where he was bused, including at Eleanor Roosevelt. He achieved his goal of becoming a filmmaker despite being told by a counselor that he couldn’t. “Luckily my mother was a teacher,” he said. “We were able to get the resources that the white students had.”

One audience member from New York experienced a lack of equity, driving her to become an

elementary school principal. “My saving grace was that my community was strong. My grandmother was an activist. I was proud of who I was, but I got in a lot of trouble,” she said. A teaching artist in the audience pointed out that while today’s schools acknowledge the need for psychological and social support systems, those resources were largely absent back then though, as Matthews pointed out, teachers with positive attitudes could make an important impact.

Another person asked, “Would integration have happened if it were not compelled by the courts?” Most responses around the auditorium pointed to heavy resistance to integration. Dr. Alvin Thornton, accomplished educator at Howard University and three-term chair of the Prince George’s Board of Education, remarked, “We’re now wrestling with the issue of how to move forward, informed by historical awareness.”

Summing up, Spencer said, “It’s good to see Blacks and whites come together. The most powerful word is love. Teach your kids love instead of hate.” Matthews said, “There is not one history. Everyone has perspectives. Make sure our children know that. Ask that person what happened from their perspective.” Baker closed the event by saying, “Never judge a book by its cover, and love one another.”



# Repair Café, Quilting Class at MakerSpace

The next free Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café is Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others’ items (experienced and novice volunteers needed). Bring clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making it useful again. MakerSpace is also holding a quilting class for beginners on Sunday, March 17 for a fee. Learn what tools are needed, how to read a quilt pattern and how to start putting your fabric blocks together. See tools.greenbeltmakers.org for more information. Borrow tools and other items at the Tool Library on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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# Parlez-Vous Français Is a Fun, Friendly, Francophone Frolic

par Cathie Meetre

The French group that meets at the New Deal Café weekly on Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. is a delight. Participants range from native speakers with wide vocabularies and a full range of accent and expression, to relative neophytes planning a trip to France and trying to learn how to be polite. Vocabularies, grammar and accent are distributed unevenly (and sometimes amusingly) among the group, and enthusiasm and the willingness to speak out are the key to advancing in the language. The atmosphere is so embracing and elastic that even those who are shy can feel unjudged and comfortable in participating. Just because it’s a verb doesn’t mean it has to be conjugated correctly; just spit it out in whatever form pops up – things can only get better.

### How It Works

Each week, participants receive an email with a topic decided by the group for the week ahead. Those of recent weeks have included wines, New Year’s resolutions and things that are fun to do in winter. Participants who are fluent can hold forth on the spot – but researching and writing out a little speech ahead of time and reading it from paper is not considered cheating as it helps the speaker explore and develop the language. Having a written prompt also removes some of the pressure of giving a short speech in an alien tongue. Of course, when the born Francophones speak, everybody gets an earful of how it should sound – a great help.

**Peer Coaching**  
The more expert speakers are also a major resource to the less fluent, assisting with words and grammatical constructions and modeling accent and the body language key to expression without any sense of judgment or superiority. While the group is not perhaps an opportunity for rapid and at-home-feeling conversation with other native French-speakers, it is hopefully a rewarding experience for the fluent to be helping others enjoy the beauty of the French language.

**Cultural Exchange**  
Apart from widening the command of French, spoken and receptive, the group is also an opportunity to learn about the culture of France. For example, a recent explanation by an actual real Frenchman on the difference of wine labeling between the U.S. and France explained that the U.S. labeling emphasizes the grape while the French labeling emphasizes the region. Who knew? He was even complimentary of one of the Maryland-grown reds as being in the same class as its French counterpart (and available from the Co-op).

**Skill Levels**  
Participant backgrounds vary. Apart from the French expatriates, some have lived in France or a French-speaking country for periods of time, some have a French-speaking parent and grew up bilingual but in the U.S. Others studied French in high school or college, often many years ago, and want to reclaim and improve the skill.

**Chez le Café**  
The New Deal Café imparts a reminiscent café flavor to the event – one can imagine une petite brasserie on a Parisian boulevard – and the speakers are able to fortify themselves with un verre de vin and a bowl of most excellent chili or perhaps une petite salade. Sometimes, if the group is larger and the table longer, the background noise level makes it a little difficile to hear the person at the other end of the table. But then again, if it were the little Paris spot one imagines, there would be, sans doute, un buzz of animated conversation to contend with.

**Where in the Café?**  
The table, always in the front room of the New Deal, can be found by the “Tricolore” flag dangling gaily from a small metal stand and perhaps the presence of un dictionnaire Français sur la table. As more speakers arrive, the group commandeers more tables – the last few meetings have had about eight to 10 persons attending. The group is informal and inclusive. Just show up.

## Luminis Health Offers Free Diabetes Classes

As part of its community outreach program to serve vulnerable populations and to prevent and manage chronic conditions, Luminis Health is offering a nine-month diabetes prevention program. The free virtual classes for people who have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes or are at risk for diabetes will meet on a weekly basis for the first four months, then once per month for the next five months. Beginning on Monday, March 11, the classes will meet on Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The evidence-based program is targeted to individuals with pre-diabetes with the goal of weight loss and behavior change. A specially trained lifestyle coach will lead the program, which will include a support group of people with similar goals and challenges. The classes will focus on how to eat healthy, be active, self-monitor, problem solve, manage stress, stay motivated, be positive and change participants’ lifestyle.

Register for the free classes using the Eventbrite link at [eventbrite.com/e/disbetes-prevention-program-dpp-tickets-807173516717](https://eventbrite.com/e/disbetes-prevention-program-dpp-tickets-807173516717) or call 443-481-5555. Additional details and instructions will be sent after registration.

## Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at [greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org](https://greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org).

**Crisis Hotline’s Number is 988**

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

## Women's History Month



**Women's History Month Proclamation; from left, Councilmembers Jenni Pompi, Amy Knesel, Kristen Weaver, Danielle McKinney, Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Rodney Roberts**

# City Responds to Recycling Questions Raised by Citizens

by Luisa Robles

This is a response to the February 29 letter by Randall Crenwelge, “Questions Recycling.”  
The City of Greenbelt pays \$27/ton to take recyclables to the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility), where materials are sorted, baled and sold by MES (Maryland Environmental Service) to be processed and made into other goods. The city pays \$70/ton to take trash to the landfill where materials will forever linger and where organic matter decomposes and produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

If Greenbelt took the recyclable materials to the landfill, we would be paying more per ton. It is cheaper to recycle than to landfill.

The MRF is 11.5 miles from the Greenbelt Public Works facility. And the landfill is 12.5 miles away. Taking materials to the MRF uses less fuel too.

Point of clarification: the fee for trash and recycling collection is separate from your taxes here in Greenbelt. Different areas of the city are served by different contractors. Homeowners’ associations choose who they want to work with. Depending on where you live, you may or may not be getting your trash and recycling collected by the city.

If only a small percentage of plastics produced are being recycled, the solution is not to

stop recycling, but to make conscious purchases and avoid plastic packaging. Or make sure the packaging is recyclable (resin code inside chasing arrows # 1 through 5). Right now, it is cheaper to produce new plastic than to recycle, but that is due to the fact that the cost of new plastic does not include the negative externalities associated with its production.

The U.S. recycles about 32 percent of materials and Greenbelt recycles about 58 percent. We continuously strive to achieve a better recycling rate.

Everyone can help! Instead of tossing something out, think: can it be reused? Will someone in Buy Nothing Greenbelt like this? Freecycle? Thrift store? Community Fork Lift?

If not, is this recyclable? Compostable (be part of our pilot!)? Or is it “Special Recycling” such as electronics, Styrofoam, paint? (Bring it to our quarterly events.)

If not, is it hazardous waste? (If so, it needs to be taken to the county; do you need help from the Greenbelt Time Bank to get that done?)

Whatever you have left, after all those questions, goes in the trash, destined for the landfill.

*Luisa Robles is the sustainability coordinator for the City of Greenbelt.*



## Luminis Receives \$1.6M State Grant For Student Mental Health Services

In response to the increasing demand for mental health services among young people, Luminis Health has been awarded a \$1.6 million grant from the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. The nonprofit regional health system will collaborate with Prince George’s County Public Schools by implementing comprehensive support services at six high schools, including Eleanor Roosevelt in Greenbelt and DuVal in Lanham.

As part of the grant, Luminis Health will hire and deploy mental health providers directly to the schools, collaborating with school counselors to offer vital support to students and parents. These embedded providers will rotate through the schools, providing education and training to students, parents and teachers in an effort to ensure access to evidence-based screening tools for identifying individual needs and strengths on an ongoing basis.

“Our mental health matters, and today’s teenagers are grappling with a mental health crisis of unprecedented proportions,” said Dr. Aliya Jones, executive medical director of Behavioral Health at Luminis Health. “By partnering with school counselors, teachers, parents and students, we can build strong bonds and connect with teenagers, fostering an

environment of support for their mental health well-being and facilitating their growth.”

Other aspects of Luminis’ multifaceted approach to support students’ mental well-being include training teachers to recognize warning signs of mental health issues and equipping them with the tools to provide appropriate support and referrals. Students will receive training on how to identify signs of distress in their classmates and provide effective peer support.

Over the next few months, Luminis Health will recruit team members to support the services funded by the grant, including clinicians, therapists, addiction counselors, nurse practitioners and registered nurses. The health system will begin working directly with school personnel in June, with plans to roll out the comprehensive services for students in the upcoming school year.

The grant will also cover extended hours at the Behavioral Health Urgent Care walk-in clinic at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center, offering treatment for non-life-threatening mental health needs for individuals of all ages.

*Information in this article was drawn from a press release from Luminis Health.*



**Witchhazel blooms in Mary Lou Williamson's garden.**



# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 4-10, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department had two domestics, one suicide attempt and four missing persons reports that were resolved. On March 9 near 9 Southway, two firearms were turned in to be destroyed.

### Welfare Check

On March 9 at 1:39 a.m. near 6420 Cherrywood Lane, a security guard was flagged down by a woman who did not know where she was or how she arrived there. Officers responded, and she advised that she was out with friends at a bar and, after a drink, she blacked out. She was then approached by a male who appeared blurry, and when she woke up, she had no idea how she got to that location.

### Assault

On March 8 at 5:25 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman parked her car and started to get out when another vehicle pulled up; the driver and a passenger started an altercation and sprayed her with pepper spray, then fled in the vehicle.

### Robberies

On March 6 at 3:35 p.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, a boy was on his way home from school when four males grabbed him, threw him to the ground and stole his hoodie and shoes.

On March 10 at 7:16 p.m. near 6200 Springhill Court, four individuals entered a woman's apartment, beat her up, displayed firearms and took her prescription medication. The suspects knew where the cameras were located and unplugged them. They also went to the breaker box and shut off all the lights inside the unit.

On March 4 at 8:36 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a man out walking was approached by a masked man who asked him for his money. The suspect struck the victim on his right shoulder with a handgun before fleeing. The man was not injured.

### Trespassing

On March 5 near 9100 Springhill Lane, five people were squatting in a vacant unit, and were detained for further investigation. The unit was damaged, and charges are pending.

### DUI Arrest

On March 9 at 4:30 a.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and Crescent Road, a vehicle in the middle of the roadway was impeding traffic. The driver said he'd had a few alcoholic beverages because it was his birthday. After a field sobriety test, he was arrested on suspicion of DUI.

### Fraud

On March 7 near 7700 Greenbrook Drive, a man answered an ad to purchase concert tickets, but once the money was sent, the seller no longer answered the phone. On March 8 near 6500 Lake Park Drive, a man was scammed when he tried to get a personal loan on the internet.

### Theft

On March 4 near 446 Ridge Road, a package was delivered to a residence but went missing.

On March 5 at 8:23 a.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, four men wearing ski masks stole several items before fleeing. On March 6 at 6:06 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was arrested and charged for stealing. On March 7 at 5:59 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an employee saw a man leave the store with a backpack identical to his; later he realized his was missing from the break room. On March 10 at 11:39 a.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a fleeing suspect was caught, and stolen items were retrieved.

### Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Seven vehicles were stolen: On March 4, near 9100 Edmonston Road, a white 2008 Ford E350 (Md. 5FE8779), and near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2014 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 3FM1027); on March 5, near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a 2013 Sonata (D.C. GC5328), and near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2008 Honda Accord (Md. 7ER9977); on March 7 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a black 2019 Chevrolet Camaro (D.C. GH2630), and near 7800 Emilys Way, a black 2017 Nissan Altima (Md. 9CW6491) was not returned after it was borrowed; and on March 9 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a white 2021 Camaro (Md. TTP7864) was stolen

from the parking lot.

### Attempted Theft of Vehicles

On March 4 two vehicles had a damaged window and ignition: a 2014 Kia Forte near 9185 Springhill Lane and a 2017 Hyundai Sonata near Springhill Drive and Cherrywood Lane.

### Theft from Auto

On March 4 near 8015 Mandan Road, four tires were stolen from a 2024 Honda Civic.

On March 8 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a vehicle's back window was smashed and tools were missing.

### Vandalism to Auto

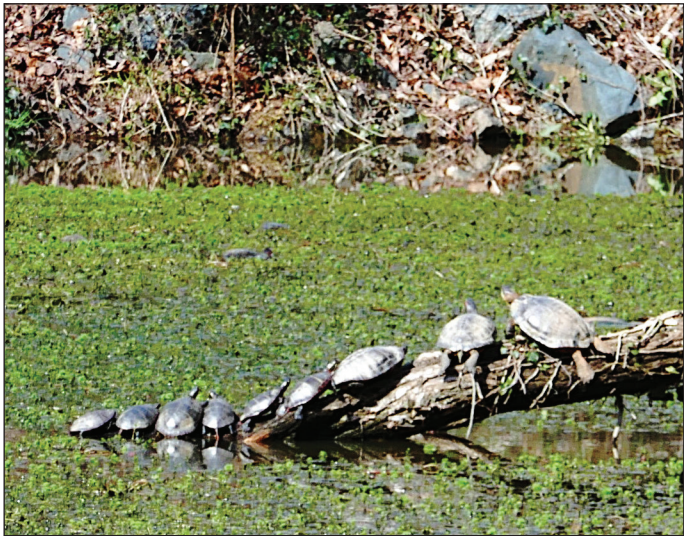
Windows were broken but nothing stolen from several vehicles: on March 5, near 6000 Springhill Drive, a Honda Civic; on March 8 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a 2011 Honda CRV; a vehicle near 9170 Edmonston Road; near 9155 Springhill Lane, a 2010 Toyota 4Runner; on March 10, near 6005 Cherrywood Court, a 2017 Kia Optima; near 5910 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2014 Camaro; near 6000 Springhill Drive, a 2002 Chevrolet Cavalier. On March 8 near 6025 Springhill Drive, a 2019 Hyundai Sonata had a damaged door handle.

## FOUND continued from page 1

Family members and friends expressed alarm and concern over Shallue's long disappearance, but her husband, Russell Shallue, filed for divorce while she was still missing. Court documents show his petition for divorce was filed on March 11, with the same

address listed for both parties. A family member described Shallue as estranged from her husband for some time.

On Tuesday, March 12, Shallue was said to be resting and recovering, unharmed and happily reunited with her young daughter.



Turtles on a log bask in the sun at Greenbelt Lake.

PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA



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# Obituaries continued from p.4

and Tom joined a core group of passionate Greenbelt neighbors to establish the Catholic Community of Greenbelt (a faith community she loved and cherished the rest of her life), yet still remained a dedicated member of the Ladies Sodality and Ladies of Charity at St. Hugh's. As her children finished school, Helen returned to work full-time for the Greenbelt Co-op and eventually Georgetown University's Medical School Faculty Practice until her retirement in 2000.

Helen lived life to the fullest, yet always made it her highest priority to be the present, listening, supportive mother/friend/grandmother – whenever and wherever needed. She and Tom developed a tremendous love of travel and curiosity about the strengths and challenges of communities around the world, a passion they imparted to their children and grandchildren. As family members spread well be-

yond Greenbelt, Helen welcomed the many travel opportunities they found in retirement, and sought to share those experiences. They organized dozens of unforgettable stateside and international trips with friends, extended family and the ever-increasing number of grandchildren to unique locations in Africa, India, Europe, Australia and New Zealand – resulting in many vivid, lasting memories that her family and friends will always hold close to our hearts.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband Tom, son Jim and brother Dave Bryan. She is survived by her sister Anne Nelson, six children: Bernadette (Marco Sandoval), Christine (Marco D'Ottavi), Mark, Tom (Jennifer Beman), Pam (Carl Quick) and Ellen White and 19 grandchildren: Michelle, Jonathan, Leslie, Jessica, Marco, Eileen, Alejandro, Beatriz, Miguel, Emilio and Mario Sandoval; Justina (Clark Scheible), Ben, Chris-

topher and Jeremy Quick; Taylor and Morgana D'Ottavi; Stella and Miles White; and her great-grandson Forrest Scheible. Helen was loved dearly, and will also be greatly missed by her many nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and close friends, including her incredible life-long pals from grade school – Helen, Jean Marie and Bob.

A burial service is scheduled for Friday, March 22 at 11 a.m. at the Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, 11301 Crain Highway, with the family hosting lunch at a nearby restaurant following the ceremony. A celebration of Helen's life is planned for the afternoon of Saturday, March 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. at 2-L Gardenway. Donations in Helen's memory (in lieu of flowers) can be made to So Others Might Eat (SOME), 71 O Street N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

# Letters continued from page 2

owners. I was however sad to see that previous residents who were left no choice but to leave the apartment building because their leases ended, or their apartments were in poor condition seem to have been left behind with no one to help us get redress from Charlestowne North Holding LLC.

Speaking personally, I moved into the apartment at the end of November 2022, and throughout the year I lived in Charlestowne North, I experienced a massive cockroach infestation which took months of pleading to resolve, mold issues in the apartment which were never properly addressed and resulted in my disposal of personal property to avoid mold introduction to my new apartment, high utility bills from Studebaker Submetering Inc which I paid in addition to those stipulated in my lease contract, false accusations of debt owed to the owners even though I presented evidence from my bank that I had made the payments in question, and package theft from living in an apartment right next to the then perpetually unsecured door. To date, I continue to receive notifications from Charlestowne North claiming that I owe them money – today's total was about \$900 – and letters from Studebaker Submetering claiming that I owe them outstanding utility bills to the tune of \$500.

I have also yet to receive my security deposit of \$1,000 from Charlestowne North Holding LLC, even though I moved out of my apartment unit over 45 days ago (November 20, 2023, to be exact) and left the apartment in pristine condition or at the very least, infinitely better than that I found it when I moved in. I was hoping that that could offset my initial move-in costs, but all attempts at retrieving my money have been in vain and many of the ongoing efforts are geared toward the current residents – we previous residents have had to pick up the pieces and try to live with the wounds and constant harassment inflicted on us by Charlestowne North Holding LLC. I and, I am sure,

many of my fellow previous residents have filed reports with the Maryland Attorney General's office, but with the current backlog of complaints and limited staff, I worry it will take a long time before we see any resolution to our strangely one-sided relationship with Charlestowne North Holding LLC.

I am truly very grateful for your coverage of the ongoing developments at Charlestowne North Apartments, and hope this can shed some light on the plight of some of the less seen victims of Charlestowne North Holding LLC.

Evelyn Chukwurah

**Shocked!**

I was shocked to read the story about the planned cancellation of the WMATA G12 bus route that goes throughout Greenbelt, connecting two railway stations – Greenbelt and New Carrollton. G14 comes to Roosevelt Center but does not serve the main part of the residential area that G12 does and it has a long winding route serving other nearby communities. With G12 gone, Greenbelt will have only Prince George's County's The Bus Route 11 that serves the inner city; though it does not reach out to New Carrollton or maintain the extended schedule of G12 covering early morning and late evening.

I can understand the financial strain on WMATA, but cancelling an important route is not the solution that serves the public. It will only encourage more use of cars, defeating the purpose of public transportation. Personally,

I will have to use my car and spend \$5 for parking at the station, an undue financial hardship on my budget. And there will be many more like me that ride the early morning G12 bus or a late evening return.

Maybe our city should offer some financial contribution to The Bus service to cover the area and time lost by the G12 cancellation. This will serve our community much better. City Council: think about it and act on it.

Rahul Mehta

*Editor's Note:* The Bus Route 16 also serves parts of Greenbelt, including on Saturdays, but does not go into Greenbelt Center.

**Reusable Bags All Gone!**

Thank you for letting the community know about MCF Community Church's reusable bag give away. We distributed 2,500 bags in 1.5 hours at six locations throughout Greenbelt. Bags were also delivered to homes that requested delivery. This appears to be a true felt need.

In my 40+ years of ministry serving the community, this is one of the fastest large events done in a short amount of time.

God Bless.

Jeff Warner  
Pastor MCF Community Church



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**Mishkan Torah Invites All to Celebrate Purim**

Mishkan Torah invites the community to join in for Purim, with an exciting, free lineup to celebrate a favorite holiday.

Bake Hamantaschen with the Karp Family School on Sunday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. While the event is open to all, kids ages 3+ and their families are especially invited to attend.

A Purim Party, for families with kids of all ages, will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be snacks, crafts and Purim stories. Kids and adults are encouraged to come in costume.

Enjoy pizza, an all-ages Purim spiel and a multilingual megillah reading on Saturday, March 23, starting at 6 p.m.

Visit [MishkanTorah.org](http://MishkanTorah.org) for more information. RSVP for the baking and party to [childrensd@mishkantorah.org](mailto:childrensd@mishkantorah.org).

**St. Hugh's Seeks Help With Student Dinner**

The St. Hugh's Parish Sodality hosts an annual Taste of Home event serving a home-cooked meal for Catholic University of Maryland students at the campus Catholic Student Center. This year's dinner will be on Wednesday, April 3.

The Sodality is seeking volunteers to make a menu item. For more information, to check out the menu or to sign up for a food contribution, call or text Cindy at 301-821-5967.

**M-NCPPC Holds Job Fairs for Seasonals**

The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a job fair series to hire for a multitude of summer 2024 positions. Interested applicants can visit the website at [mncppc.attract.neogov.com/job-fair-recruitment](http://mncppc.attract.neogov.com/job-fair-recruitment) for information on positions and to register.

"We are looking for talented and dedicated people to work in a variety of seasonal and part-time positions," states Brenda Miller, principal human relations operations specialist. "We encourage applicants to come prepared to meet our hiring managers and interview for immediate job opportunities in Parks and Recreation."

Job fairs scheduled for this Spring are on the following Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: March 16 at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, March 30 at the Southern Regional Technology and Recreational Complex and April 20 at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex.

Browse all of the department's openings at [governmentjobs.com/careers/mncppc](http://governmentjobs.com/careers/mncppc).





A News Review carrier finds a useful holder for their delivery on Research Road.

PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

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## Travels with News Review



PHOTO COURTESY PETER AND ANGELA BUCKLEY

Peter and Angela Buckley hold the News Review in Costa Rica, where they spent a week in a Spanish immersion program. The Greenbelters lived with a Costa Rican family and went to Tico Lingo school. They then traveled by bus to Isla Damas and spent a few days at the beach. “Pura Vida” is the unofficial national slogan of Costa Rica.



PHOTO BY MARC MANHEIMER

Annie Haber visits Colombia for the first time since returning from the Peace Corps in 1980.



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE KIELSZEK

The News Review travels to the Caribbean Island of Nevis with Pat Scully, visiting Alexander Hamilton’s birthplace.



PHOTO COURTESY STEPHEN HOLDER

Greenbelter Stephen Holder, currently living in South Australia, occasionally receives a copy of the News Review from a good neighbor and friend.

## At the Library

Regular hours for the Greenbelt Library are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays; noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays; and 1 to 5 p.m., Sundays. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2 at all Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) buildings.

### Storytimes

Friday, March 15, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10082717](http://pgcmls.info/event/10082717).

Monday, March 18, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9974726](http://pgcmls.info/event/9974726).

Wednesday, March 20, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9974760](http://pgcmls.info/event/9974760).

### Storytime on Screen

Monday, March 18, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema, 129 Centerway. Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with PGCMLS, is offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9974995](http://pgcmls.info/event/9974995).

### Traveling Exhibit

Friday, March 15 through Saturday, March 30, all day, ages 5+ (elementary/teen/adult). This traveling exhibit, generously loaned to PGCMLS by the Frances Perkins Center, comprises an informative six-panel display highlighting the life and accomplishments of Frances Perkins. As Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Secretary of Labor and the first woman to hold a cabinet position, Perkins played a pivotal role in shaping the New Deal era. Credited with formulating policies that revitalized the national economy during one of its most severe crises, she is celebrated for her efforts in establishing the foundations of the modern middle class. Perkins’ remarkable journey from modest beginnings in New England to becoming America’s foremost advocate for industrial safety and workers’ rights is a testament to her resilience and determination.

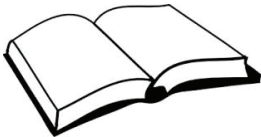
### Talk Health

Friday, March 15, 11 a.m., ages 18+ (adult). Take charge of your health at a free blood pressure screening session. Led by University of Maryland School of Nursing students, get your blood pressure checked and bring your medications for a personalized review. Open to all. Talk Health is a collaboration between PGCMLS and the UMD School of Nursing.

Friday, March 15, 12:30 p.m., ages 18+ (adult). Bring a lunch for a discussion of important health topics. There will be a short presentation followed by an opportunity for discussion, a 20-minute energetic and low-impact seated exercise class and a five-minute mindful meditation practice. Perfect for all levels of fitness. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10126922](http://pgcmls.info/event/10126922).

### Winter Reading Challenge

The Washington Wizards and PGCMLS have teamed up to get Prince Georgians of all ages reading this winter with the Wizards Winter Reading Challenge. The free event runs until March 31. For more information, visit [pgcmls.info/wizards](http://pgcmls.info/wizards).



## Council Meets Faith Groups: Discuss Youth, Other Issues

by Erik Hanson

Sitting in a circle and passing a microphone to speak, the Greenbelt City Council and representatives of area faith groups had a dialogue at the February 28 worksession.

Representatives of faith groups included Susan Walker and Mary Ann Tretler from St. Hugh of Grenoble, Gloria Cline-Smyth from Good Samaritan Lutheran, Jim Fischer and Farinaz Firouzi from the Greenbelt Baha’i Community, Joe Park from Soka Gakkai, Stephen Unthank from Greenbelt Baptist, Saul Oresky from the Mishkan Torah Synagogue and Kevin Wright from Zion Church. Several representatives spoke of their connection to the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA).

The main issues that came up during the discussion were youth, communication between the city and faith groups, and returning to in-person meetings following Covid.

Youthful indiscretions were mentioned by a couple of faith group representatives. They were looking for ways to engage young people in more valuable pursuits. Greenbelt recreation

opportunities and Learn to Earn workforce development were mentioned as options for youth. Other faith community leaders offered suggestions on how to engage youth, including giving them their own space and offering them food.

Desire for better communication between the city and faith groups was expressed by both sides. Faith groups wished to learn about city activities so they could find engaging activities for their young members, connect members to city social services, be aware of issues in the community they serve and reach out to residents to let them know about faith group activities. Greenbelt representatives, while noting the separation of church and state, hoped for cooperation in providing services to residents.

Faith groups noted that while most everything is back to in-person following Covid, some members still attend online. While Zoom can create some connection with those unable to attend in person, some faith leaders mentioned the importance of face-to-face relationships.

## Cinema Audience Enjoys Live Music with Silent Film

by Amina Khalifa

On Saturday, February 24, Greenbelt Cinema showed one of my favorite silent movies, Safety Last, with a live music performance by Andrew E. Simpson. Caitlin McGrath, executive director of the theater, gave a brief introduction for Simpson, who in turn made an equally brief introduction to the movie and talked about why he loves composing and playing for silent movies. He has performed for the three greats, Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton (his favorite as well as mine) and Harold Lloyd. As a spectator, I have to admit that his live performance made a world of difference, it added to the excitement, thrill, romance and hilarity. This was obvious by the bursts of laughter throughout the movie and by the unanimous applause at the end of it.

McGrath said there will be more films with live music to come and I, for one, will keep an eye out for them.



PHOTO BY AMINA KHALIFA

From left, Andrew E. Simpson and Caitlin McGrath pose at the Cinema after the live music performance.



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ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at [zellepay.com](http://zellepay.com). Customers should direct their payments to [business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:business@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

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COUNCIL continued from page 7

site. The city has issued multiple citations for unresolved code violations in some properties. Public comment included inquiries about fines and ARPA funding.

Police Department

In this past quarter, the Greenbelt Police Department has hired five officer candidates going through the police academy, with three hired on the day of the meeting to go to the next police academy. The department has also held multiple community functions.

Recreation

In the last quarter, the Recreation Department added two pickleball courts, bringing the city to 12 courts. The department tested language translation tools in a pilot program at the Aquatic & Fitness Center. Park rangers

will also have a tablet with translation capability in the spring, and continued financial assistance for summer camp scholarships will be included in the FY 2025 budget.

Museum

Work on phase one of the Greenbelt Museum’s Education and Visitor Center planned for 10-A Crescent Road will likely start in the next six months. Currently, the museum is about \$200,000 to \$220,000 short of the funding needed to complete phase two of the expansion project.

Grants

The city’s Grants Department has filed documentation for grants totaling \$1,634,650 in the second quarter. The team is busy applying for grants to offset program costs and improve services.

BLUEPRINT continued from page 6

the commission was really to face the fact that, on what we call the Nation’s Report Card, Maryland’s score was about in the middle ... and moving in the wrong direction,” said Rachel Hise, executive director of the Blueprint’s Accountability and Implementation Board, a state entity that’s making sure school districts adhere to the plan.

But Hogan had an “aha” moment of his own after Democrats crafted the Kirwan Commission’s report into comprehensive legislation. In 2019, Hogan criticized the pending reform proposal, telling a group of county officials it would mean “billions and billions more in mandated spending increases for county and state taxpayers,” according to The Frederick News-Post.

Hogan vetoed the bill creating the Blueprint in May 2020, saying he did not want to raise taxes amid the pandemic to fund the education plan. The General Assembly overrode his veto in 2021.

And the following year, voters elected a strong backer of the Blueprint, Democrat Wes Moore, to succeed Hogan.

On the first day of the current legislative session that began in January, Moore said he believes in the reform plan and will work with the General Assembly to ensure the Blueprint is implemented properly and sustainably.

“I believe in the premise and the promise of the Blueprint. I think we need a world-class

education system in the state of Maryland,” Moore said. “I think that’s going to be a prerequisite for us to be able to accomplish the economic goal that we’re hoping for.”

Lofty Goals

In the state’s 24 public school districts, the Blueprint and its lofty goals are already beginning to take shape.

Each school district has drawn up a preliminary plan for how it will meet targets for offering pre-K, increasing teacher salaries and improving student performance. The Accountability and Implementation Board has approved all those plans after first asking for revisions.

The Blueprint is meant to revamp the state’s education system by presenting the same opportunities for all students. With a law like the Blueprint, one size has to fit all to achieve its goals of maximizing reading and math skills, as well as increasing pathways into college, said Sen. Jim Rosapepe (D - Prince George’s and Anne Arundel).

“So we want that for every kid across the state. We don’t want variation of those goals,” Rosapepe said. “Now, the details of how stuff is paid for – I mean, I think that’s a conversation that will be ongoing.”

Kiersten Hacker, Christina Walker and Ela Jali write for Local News Network, a part of the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism.



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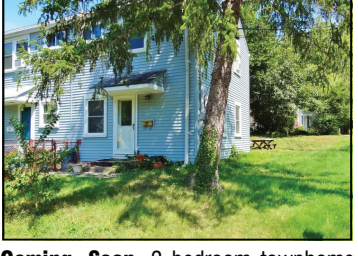
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PHOTO BY CAMILA LUCHSINGER

Pink hellebore, common name Lenten rose, blooms in early spring in Mary Lou Williamson's garden.



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# ERHS Alien Raiders Pull Hat Trick At State Robotics Championship

by Karl B. Hille



The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Robotics Club squads 53C and 53F pause to celebrate their success during the Maryland State Championship in Dundalk on March 2. From left, teacher-sponsor Karen Bogoski, Max Nelkin, driver Evan McClelland, programmer Isaiah Blanc, driver Sameer Kumar, 53C squad captain Brendan Hille, 53F squad captain Von Skaggs, Joshua Hernandez, Sergio Ramos, programmer Krish Patel and coach Karl Hille; tournament host Patrick Dougherty photobombs the group between Ramos and Patel in his signature top hat.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Robotics Club will send three robots to the VEX Robotics Competition’s High School World Championship in Dallas, Texas, in April, following a strong showing at the Maryland State Championship on Saturday, March 2.

While all six of the squads building robots for Roosevelt made it to the elimination rounds of the State Championship, an achievement in itself, the three going to the World Championships qualified through different means. Two squads of students, led by freshman Von Skaggs and junior Brendan Hille of Greenbelt, joined forces with their robots to advance to the final round of the State Championship, where they placed second. A third squad led by junior Felix Hass, also of Greenbelt, earned the tournament’s Design Award in recognition of their excellence on the field, creativity in problem solving and documentation of their engineering design process. All three achievements qualified the teams for the Vex Robotics World Championship where they will face the top two percent of competitors worldwide.

“In the beginning of the season I said that if we made it to Worlds, it would be on the strength of our notebook,” Hass said. “Collectively, my team has put thousands of hours into the notebook, and it’s amazing to see that work pay off.”

Roosevelt’s team, the Area 53 Alien Raiders led by Coach Karl Hille of Greenbelt, consists of six squads of three to six students. Each squad plans, builds, programs and competes with a unique robot designed to address a variety of physical challenges, which change every year. Four robots compete at a time on one field, in two alliances of two robots each. Matches include a 15-second autonomous period where robots are guided only by their computer programming, then a 1:45-minute driver-controlled period.

In this year’s challenge, called Over Under, robots earned points for moving triangular-shaped



The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Robotics Club squad 53E poses after qualifying for the World Championship by winning the Design Award at the Md State Championship in Dundalk, Maryland, March 2. From left, coach Karl Hille, John Kelley, driver Alan Morales, captain Felix Hass, Joy Oladimeji, programmer Meghana Noojipady, Violet Ridge and teacher-sponsor Karen Bogoski

- Photos by Glenford Blanc

plastic balls called Triballs or “acorns” over a low barrier into their alliance’s offensive scoring zone, or scoring more points for pushing them under their net-covered goal. In the last seconds of each two-minute game, robots may attempt to climb a vertical structure and score points based on how high they elevate off the field.

The 12th-ranked alliance led by Skaggs exceeded all expectations to face the number two alliance from Dulaney High School in Towson. He invited Hille’s 42nd-ranked team to form an alliance for the final elimination rounds because, he said, “What truly matters is the spirit, dedication and potential within a team. I chose Brendan’s team not for their position on a list, but for the passion and unity that define us as a club.”

Hass’s 255-page engineering notebook, in addition to recording each decision, test, design and result through the season, was a programming innovation in itself. Hass and his fellow programmers – Ajibola Ajani of Bowie, Isaiah Blanc of Laurel and David Blau-

fuss of Greenbelt – developed a computer program to turn their contributions, text, images and data into a formatted, personalized and professional notebook.

“It takes in user-written content as input,” Hass said, “and outputs a formatted document in an incredibly consistent, customizable visual style.”

They also made their Notebookinator code available on the software-sharing website Github for other robotics teams to use and develop.

Their success has put the parents’ booster organization into overdrive figuring out how to cover the costs of registration and travel for Worlds, as well as the costs to repair and improve their robots over the next seven weeks and to ship their robots to the tournament.

“I couldn’t be more proud of the hard work these students have put in to achieve this,” Coach Hille said. “Now it’s up to the parents and supporters of this team at Roosevelt, throughout Greenbelt and beyond to help them get to Dallas.”

The club is taking tax-deductible donations at [area53robotics.org/home](http://area53robotics.org/home).

## Pinewood Derby

For the first time ever, Girl Scouts joined Cub Scout Pack 202 in the derby Saturday, March 9, at the firehouse.



PHOTO BY BRIAN OTTENS

Judges evaluate Pinewood Derby cars for awards such as Most Original, as scouts await the results. From left, Kateri Baker, Eric Crompton, Gisela Bardossy, Dora McKenzie, Catalina Tillard, William Olsen and Zak Showalter



PHOTO BY BRIAN OTTENS

Jose Tillard positions cars at the starting line of the track.



PHOTO BY CLARA BREAUT

Baby Mason Breault has enjoyed the News Review from a young age.